

CHAPTER 1 SECTION 31

REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN PRIME TRAVEL EXPENSES

ISSUE DATE: December 21, 2001

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.17\(n\)\(2\)\(vi\)](#)

I. POLICY

TRICARE Prime enrollees referred for necessary specialty care over 100 miles from their Primary Care Manager's (PCM's) office to the nearest specialist's office may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Entitlement is limited to those specialty referrals when no other specialist (i.e., Military Treatment Facility (MTF), network or non-network specialists) is available within 100 miles of the PCM's office. The only exception is when the beneficiary agrees to a referral to a center of excellence or Military Treatment Facility with the patient's approval.

MTFs will be responsible for validation of travel expense entitlement and issuing travel orders for specialty referrals issued by military PCMs, while the Lead Agents or designated Government representatives will assume responsibility for travel entitlement determinations and orders for specialty referrals from civilian PCMs. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR). The Managed Care Support Contractors will refer civilian PCM travel requests to the Lead Agent or designated Government representative for validation, orders and payment if it appears that the beneficiary may be entitled to the new travel benefit.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE October 30, 2000.

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